Use of alcohal in manufacture of Ayurvedic Medicines

682. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that alcohol is an important ingredient in the manufacture of Ayurvedic medicine in the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government have imposed a ban on the use of alcohol in the manufacture of these medicines;

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Government will reconsider this decision so that the efficacy of these medicines of mass use is maintained; and

(e) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Identification of companies producting sub-standard medicines

683. SHRI ANANT RAM JAISWAL:
SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFAE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the names of the companies which have been identified as producers of sub-standard medicines during 1992-93 and how does the figure compare with the companies booked for producing sub-standard medicines in 1991-92;

(b) what is the existing machinery to ensure the manufacture of standard medicines by the manufacturers of medicines and whether any deficiency in the enforcement-of-norms prescribed has been identified; and

(c) what action has been taken/proposed to be taken by Government against the companies producing sub-standard medicines?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (c) Information is being collected and would be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) Under the Drugs & Cosmetics Act, 1940 inspection and testing of both raw material and finished products have been prescribed Compliance with Good Manufacturing Practices (GMPs) is a condition before grant of manufacturing licence. Deficiencies are in respect of testing facilities and enforcement staff. Punitive action for making sub-standard medicines include suspension and cancellation of licence and launching of prosecution by the State Licensing Authorities.

Wrong delivery of a dead body by Guru Teg Bahadur Hospital Mortuary in Delhi

684. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA:
SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news item that appeared on page 1 of The Times of India, New Delhi dated 13th November, 1993 under the caption "GTB mortuary gives 'wrong' body for cremation" wherein it has been stated that the body of a christain girl was given to a non-christian family, if so, what are the details thereof;

(b) whether any enquiry in this regard has been ordered and guilty punished; if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHAN-

KARANAND): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Trials of long term contraceptive Norplant-1

685. SHRI N. GIRIPRASAD:
SHRI N. E. BALARAM:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have allowed the trials of the controversial long-term contraceptive Norplant-1 to be taken up by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) in 10 districts all over the country;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what is the reaction of Government to the protests by woman organisations against the trials of this contraceptive on Indian women?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b) The Indian Council of Medical Research has initiated Phase III clinical trials with Norplant-1 at 10 Human Reproduction Research Centres (HRRCs) located in medical colleges.

(c) Representative of women's health advocates in the area are members of the Local Coordination Committees set up to review the progress of clinical trials being conducted on healthy female volunteers.

Use of Saccharine in pan masala

686. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal under its consideration to permit the use of saccharine in pan masala.

(b) if so, whether the use of saccharine in pan masala will enhance cancer inducing substances as per views of Government scientists;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof;

(d) whether Government propose to review its decision; and

(e) if so, by when and if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) The Government have permitted the use of Saccharine in Pan Massla upto a maximum limit of 8000 p.p.m.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) to (e) Do not arise.

Strengthening of drugs and medicines quality control mechanism

687. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU:
DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY:
SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to strengthen the quality control mechanism in regard to drugs and medicines;

(b) if so, what are the details of such a proposal and by when it would be implemented; and

(c) whether it is a fact that marketing of spurious drugs have increased manifold, if so, what steps Government have taken in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. It is a continuous process, which includes Good Manufacturing Practices as a statutory requirement, testing of raw materials and finished products. The Central Govt.